

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1(Canceled).

2(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim + 20, wherein the top flange is integrally formed in the cross-bearing member.

3(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim + 20, wherein a portion of the top flange with the opening is a separate member capable of being attached to the cross-bearing member.

4(Canceled).

5(Canceled).

6(Canceled).

7(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim + 20, wherein the side post is tapered.

8(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim 7 20, wherein the side post supports angled side walls on a gondola railcar.

9(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim + 20, further comprising:

a reinforcing member disposed inside the post along an area of the post where it is connected to the cross-bearing member.

10(Currently amended). The ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly of Claim + 20, further comprising an auxiliary support member attached to the top flange such that the side post is completely surrounded by the top flange and the auxiliary support member when the side post is disposed through the opening in the flange.

11(Canceled).

12(Canceled).

13(Canceled).

14(Canceled).

15(Canceled).

16(Canceled).

17(Canceled).

18(Canceled).

19(Canceled).

20(Currently amended). A ~~gondola~~ railcar subassembly, comprising:

a horizontal cross-bearing member having a longitudinal axis, a top flange, and a bottom flange, the top flange and bottom flange connected by at least one vertical web, the cross-bearing member formed at a first end such that the flanges extend beyond the web along the longitudinal axis, the top flange having an opening defined therein that is bordered by an inner edge of the top flange; and,

a side post having a side wall and an end portion, the side post disposed through the opening in the top flange of the beam such that the side wall abuts with the inner edge of the top flange, abuts with the web, and an end portion of the side post abuts with the bottom flange.

21(Currently amended). A railroad ~~gondola~~ car, comprising:

a subframe assembly including a plurality of horizontal cross-bearing members having an upper flange, a lower flange and a vertical web disposed between the flanges a longitudinal axis, a top flange, and a bottom flange, the top flange and bottom flange connected by at least one vertical web, the cross-bearing member formed at a first end such that the flanges extend beyond the web along the longitudinal axis, the top flange having an opening defined therein that is bordered by an inner edge of the top flange;

a side structure having a side sheet having inner and outer surfaces and a plurality of vertical side posts disposed adjacent to the side sheets; and,

at least one of the side posts connected to the cross-bearing member and disposed through an the opening in the upper flange of the cross-bearing member such that the post abuts with the opening and the vertical web, the side post having an end portion that abuts with the lower flange of the cross-bearing member.

22(Currently amended). The railroad ~~gondola~~ car of Claim 21, further comprising a reinforcing member disposed inside the side posts and extending from the underframe to the side structure.

23(Currently amended). The railroad ~~gondola~~ car of Claim 21, wherein the top flange is integrally formed in the cross-bearing member.

24(Currently amended). The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein a portion of the top flange having an opening is a separate member capable of being attached to the cross-bearing member.

25(Currently amended). The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the side sheets.

26(Currently amended). The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the side sheets.

27(Currently amended). The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are tapered.

28(Currently amended). The railroad gondola car of Claim 27, wherein the side post supports angled side walls.

29(New). A railcar subassembly, comprising:

a horizontal cross-bearing member having a longitudinal axis, a top flange, and a bottom flange, the top flange and bottom flange connected by at least one vertical web, the cross-bearing member formed at a first end such that the bottom flange extends beyond the at least one vertical web;

an extension flange supported by the cross-bearing member and extending beyond the at least one vertical web at the first end, the extension flange having an opening defined therein that is bordered by an inner edge of the extension flange; and,

a side post having a side wall and an end portion, the side post disposed through the opening in the extension flange such that the side wall abuts with the inner edge of the extension flange, abuts with the web, and an end portion of the side post abuts with the bottom flange.

30(New). The railcar subassembly of Claim 20, wherein the side post is welded to the inner edge of the top flange.

31(New). The railcar subassembly of Claim 20, wherein the side post is welded to the at least one vertical web.

32(New). The railcar subassembly of Claim 20, wherein the end portion of the side post is welded to the bottom flange.